



# **Housing Counseling Stakeholder Meeting FY 2015 Notice of Funding Agreement Feedback Webinar**

**Please call: (800) 260-0719**

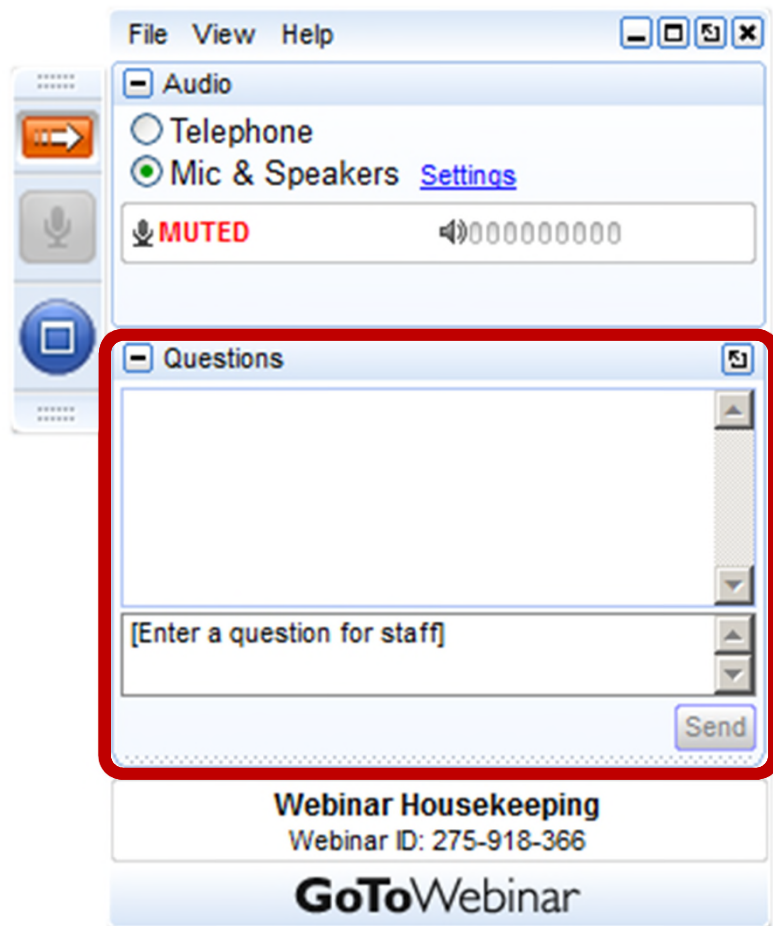
**Participant Access Code: 362816**

**to join the conference call portion of the webinar**

# Webinar Logistics:

- This webinar is being recorded.
- The audio along with the PowerPoint will be available at [www.hud.gov/housingcounseling](http://www.hud.gov/housingcounseling) under “Training Webinar Archives”
- All attendee lines will muted during presentation.
- There will be several polling questions.
- There will be important discussion questions. The operator will give you instructions. You will not have to give your name and agency to participate in the discussions.

# Other Ways to Ask Questions



## Your Participation

Please submit your text questions and comments using the Questions Panel. We will answer some of them during the webinar.

You can also send questions and comments to [housing.counseling@hud.gov](mailto:housing.counseling@hud.gov) with **webinar topic is subject line.**

**Note:** The audio and presentation will be available on OHC's website. Information will be sent out via OHC's LISTSERV

# Please Mute Your Phones During Discussions

- During the discussions, all the phones may be unmuted by the operator.
- It is critical that you mute your phone during these discussions.
  - Most phones have a Mute function so use it.
  - \*6 will also mute and unmute your phone.
- Unmuted phones are a distraction to the discussion.
- Please be courteous to others on the call.

# Brief Survey

- Please complete the brief survey at the end of this session.
- Your responses will help OHC better plan and present our webinars.



# Welcome

## Lorraine Griscavage-Frisbee

Deputy Director

Office of Outreach and Capacity Building

# Agenda

- Purpose of Stakeholder Meetings
- Feedback on:
  - FY 2015 funding process
  - Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) policies

# Stakeholder Meeting Purpose

- Provide the opportunity for communication and interaction
- Evaluate stakeholder input on program policy and procedures
- Share best practices and challenges
- Provide valuable insight for the OHC to help consumers achieve housing goals
- Provide advice to leadership of the department as it relates to housing legislation, regulation, policy development, budget, training, program evaluation and oversight



# Stakeholder Meeting Purpose

- This stakeholder meeting does not replace a HUD debriefing or serve as Housing Counseling Program or Grant Administration Training.
- All applicants are encouraged to request a debriefing. You may do so by sending an email to [housing.counseling@hud.gov](mailto:housing.counseling@hud.gov) with the subject line “Debriefing Request.”



# FY 2015 Funding Process

**Ashley McAskill**

Housing Program Specialist  
Office of Policy and Grant Administration

# Polling Question #1

What type of organization are you representing?

- A. Intermediary
- B. Multi-State Organization (MSO)
- C. State Housing Finance Agency (SHFA)
- D. Local Housing Counseling Agency (LHCA) – direct grantee
- E. Affiliate or Sub-grantee of an Intermediary/MSO/SHFA

# Polling Question #2

How did your organization receive FY 2015 HUD housing counseling funding?

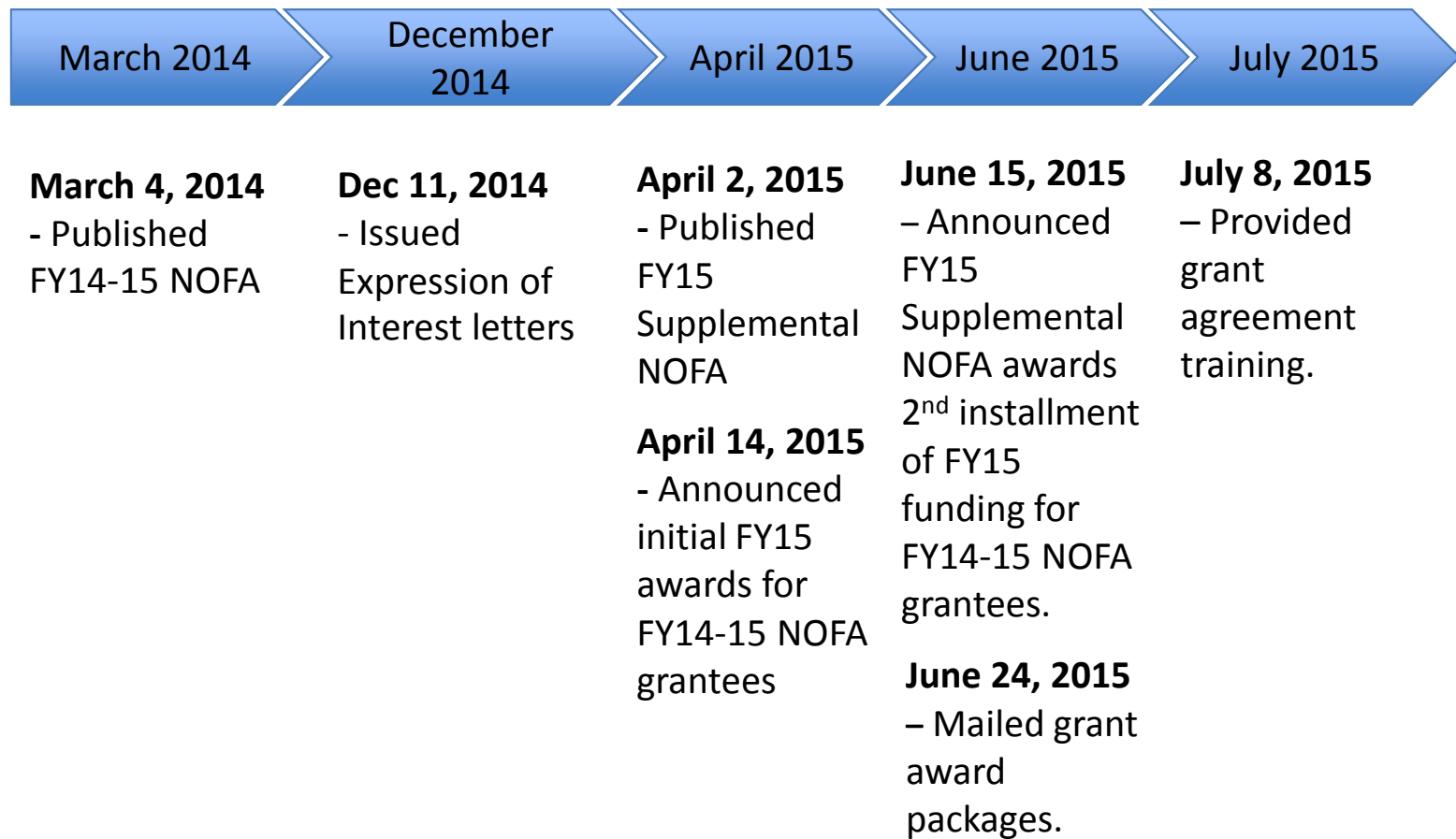
- A. Through the FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA published March 2014
- B. Through the FY 2015 Supplemental NOFA published April 2015
- C. Did not receive FY 2015 funding
- D. Not sure

# FY 2015 Funding Process

## New Process for Awarding FY15 Funds

- Majority of FY15 grantees did not have to apply for funding
- FY15 Supplemental NOFA – limited eligibility

# FY 2015 Funding Process Timeline



# Polling Question #3

FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA grantees did not have to reapply for FY15 funding. How many work hours do you estimate that saved your organization?

- A. Less than 8 hours
- B. 8 – 24 hours
- C. 25 – 40 hours
- D. More than 40 hours
- E. N/A – Not an FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA grantee

# Two-Year NOFAs

- Do you think HUD should implement two-year NOFAs in the future?
- Did you experience any challenges related to the two-year NOFA or expression of interest notification letter?
- Any suggestions for improving the process if HUD implements a two-year NOFA again?



# Funding Methodology

HUD's funding methodology for FY14 and FY15 included:

- Base award – based on size and nature of counseling network
- Competitive funding amount – based on application score
- Funding Based on Number of Counselor FTEs
- Funding Based on Participation in HUD-Sponsored Research or Pilot Programs
- Funding to Provide Support to a Network
- Funding for Reverse Mortgage Counseling

**Question:** How can HUD do a better job of measuring and rewarding quality of service without relying too heavily on narratives?

# Rating Factors

The FY14-15 NOFA and FY15 Supplemental NOFA included the following rating factors and point values.

1. Rating Factor 1. Capacity of the Applicant – 33 points
2. Rating Factor 2. Need/ Departmental Policy Priorities – 14 points
3. Rating Factor 3. Soundness of Approach/ Scope of Housing Counseling Services – 39 points
4. Rating Factor 4. Leveraging – 4 points
5. Rating Factor 5. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation – 10 points

## Questions:

- What are your thoughts on the point values?
- Do you think they are weighted properly?

# Multiple Installments of Funding

If HUD awards funding in multiple installments, it *may* help get funding out earlier in the fiscal year. **BUT** it would likely require grantees to sign an amended HUD-1044 and submit a revised budget, client projections, and sub-allocations (if applicable) for each installment.

## Questions:

- Would you prefer to receive HUD funding as early as possible, even if that means you would receive it in multiple installments?
- Or would you prefer to receive funding in one installment but potentially later in the fiscal year?

# Reimbursement Process

- For those who received an FY14 grant, what was your overall impression of the reimbursement process?
- Was the grant agreement clear in terms of what you needed to submit to process a payment request?
- Are there areas for improvement?



# Notice of Funding Availability Policies

**Jamie Spakow**

Housing Program Specialist  
Office of Policy and Grant Administration

# Polling Question #4

For Intermediaries, MSOs, and SHFAs:

How does your network experience change?

- A. Sub-agencies are added and removed from the network throughout the grant period.
- B. Sub-agencies are added and removed from the network when applying for a HUD grant, but typically are not added/removed during the grant period.
- C. Sub-agencies are rarely added and removed from the network.
- D. My agency was recently approved or hasn't experienced network change yet.

# Polling Question #5

For Intermediaries, MSOs, and SHFAs:

Does your network charge a network fee?

Select all that apply.

- A. We charge an initial fee to join the network
- B. We charge an annual fee
- C. Fees charged exceed \$500 per year per member agency
- D. We do not charge a network fee

# Polling Question #6

For LHCAs, Affiliates and Sub-grantees:

What are your plans for the next HUD grant cycle?

- A. We apply for funding directly from HUD and plan to continue doing so.
- B. We apply for funding directly from HUD but are considering joining an Intermediary or SHFA network.
- C. We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network and plan to continue doing so.
- D. We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network but are considering applying for funding directly from HUD.
- E. We do not apply for HUD funding, or do not plan to apply.



# Housing Counseling Networks

## Questions for Parent Agencies:

- Sub-grantee Selection Factors?
- Importance of Network Flexibility?
- Network Expansion – Recent and/or Planned?

## Questions for LHCAs, affiliates, and sub-grantees:

- Application or Affiliation - Decision Factors?
- Change from Grantee to Affiliated Sub-grantee (or vice versa)
  - Talk about the Experience
  - Advantages and Disadvantages?

# Polling Question #7

FY14 and FY15 grants had an 18-month period of performance rather than 12 months like in previous grants.

What do you think of this change?

Select all that apply.

- A. I like the increased flexibility to expend funds over 6 additional months if needed.
- B. I like not having to request an extension to expend funds over a longer period of time.
- C. I feel the need to stretch the money out over the full 18 months.
- D. I find it confusing or need more guidance.
- E. I prefer a 12-month period of performance.

# Period of Performance

## Questions:

- Is the 18-month period of performance helpful?
- Extended period of performance questions or comments?
- Challenges with overlapping periods of performance?
- Is more guidance needed?
  - Which aspect(s)?
  - Preferred format(s)?

# Polling Question #8

What has been your experience with expending grant funds awarded in the past few years?

Select all that apply.

- A. We have had to return all or part of the award because we were not able to expend all the funding.
- B. We have had to request an extension in order to expend all the funding.
- C. We have not had any problem expending all the funding during the period of performance.

# Expending Grant Funds

## Questions:

- Would you like to have the option of indicating a cap funding amount in the NOFA application?
- Should HUD incorporate a grantee's drawdown performance into NOFA scoring or funding methodology?

# Other NOFA Policy Questions

- HUD's strategic plan goal: Increase the number of FHA borrowers who receive pre- or post-purchase housing counseling. How to measure, recognize in the NOFA?
- Should HUD further incorporate 9902 reporting performance in the NOFA? If so, suggestions?
- How could the NOFA better recognize and fund network oversight responsibilities?

# 2015 Supplemental NOFA

## Application Questions

- What is your overall impression about completing the FY 2015 Supplemental NOFA application?
- Were the NOFA instructions clear and concise?
- What additional suggestions or comments do you have on the grant application process?

# Discussion Questions

- What is your overall impression about the Housing Counseling NOFA Application and Grant Award Process?
- What additional suggestions or comments do you have that could further improve this process?





# Concluding Remarks

**Lorraine Griscavage-Frisbee**

Deputy Director

Office of Capacity Building and Outreach

# Closing Discussion

- Evaluation Survey
  - Survey will launch after the webinar

# Conclusion

For housing counseling program information, grant information, training and events, counselor resources and to sign up for our LISTSERV.

[www.hud.gov/housingcounseling](http://www.hud.gov/housingcounseling)

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Questions or comments:

[housing.counseling@hud.gov](mailto:housing.counseling@hud.gov)